(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also set up a Rs. 125 Crore Credit Guarantee Fund for SSIs to tackle the problem of collateral guarantee as well as to provide necessary comfort level to banks lending money to Small Scale Units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and from which date the scheme became operational and how many SSIs have taken benefits therefrom till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To begin with, awareness in respect of E-Commerce has been created amongst SSIs through special sessions in 28 workshops on WTO held all over the country. In addition, the existing website is being enhanced to allow India SSIs to deal with potential buyers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has set up a Credit Guarantee Trust for Small Scale Industries (CGTSI). To begin with the Trust will have a corpus of Rs. 125 Crore of which Rs. 100 Crore is being contrubuted by the Government of India and Rs. 25 Crore by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The scheme will guarantee 75% of the individual loans (term loan as well as working capital) each upto Rs. 10 lakhs extended by commercial banks and well performing regional rural banks to small scale industrial units, without collateral including, third party guarantee.

The scheme will become operational in September, 2000.

Declining industries in rural India

†3406. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that once again rural India is getting devoid of Industries and labourers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that industries in rural areas and small indigent areas have either closed down or shifted to big cities; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government to check this de-industrialisation of Indian villages which is taking place second time after the British era?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Dereservation of items for SSI Sector

3407. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to prune list of items reserved for the Small Scale Industries Sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Small Industries have lodged a protest against the proposed move and if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) what measures are proposed to be taken to protect the SSI sector which is facing stiff competition from the multinational companies as a result of Government policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.